

City wins award for drinking water

Latest tests show no PCBs at Waller Mill

By Steve Vaughan

WILLIAMSBURG — Although the city has had a recent scare about the safety of its water source at Waller Mill Reservoir, the city’s water treatment plant has been honored by the state for excellence. Williamsburg Waterworks was awarded the Office of Drinking Water’s 2008 Silver Award for excellence in granular media filter water treatment plant performance.

The award is presented by the Southeast Virginia field office of the Virginia Department of Health.

Williamsburg’s plant received the top score in the region. Out of a maximum of 20 possible points, Williamsburg got 19.43. The city ranked 27th out of 132 waterworks across the state. Only 13 facilities got a perfect score of 20.

The program seeks to foster standards for filtration and clarity of drinking water that required by the state Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The city’s drinking water was found to exceed those standards.

Although the quality of the water was threatened



City of Williamsburg

Williamsburg Waterworks won a state award for quality, staff include (from left) Mike Hylemon, Chris Maye, Will Hughes, Jon Kellum, Charlie Kelsey and Joe Wenger.

by a report last month of PCBs leaking from Camp Peary into a drainage ditch that runs toward Waller Mill, the latest reports show no contamination of the reservoir.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) contamination was found at the site and

on a drainage pathway under I-64 leading to Waller Mill Reservoir.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls belong to a broad family of man-made organic chemicals. They were domestically manufactured from 1929 until they were banned in 1979.

They can cause cancer and other health problems in humans.

City spokesman Kate Hoving said Tuesday that the latest monthly test of the reservoir on May 4 showed no trace of pcbs.

She said the city would test monthly until August and then quarterly after that.


PCBs often accumulate in the tissues of marine animals. Hoving said tests that the navy conducted on fish from the reservoir are not complete and that the city doesn’t expect any results from those test until fall.



Mike Hazlewood

Hamilton meets with military

Del. Phil Hamilton met with members of the Virginia Peninsula chapter of the Military Officers Association of America on May 14 at his Military/Veterans Advisory Council.



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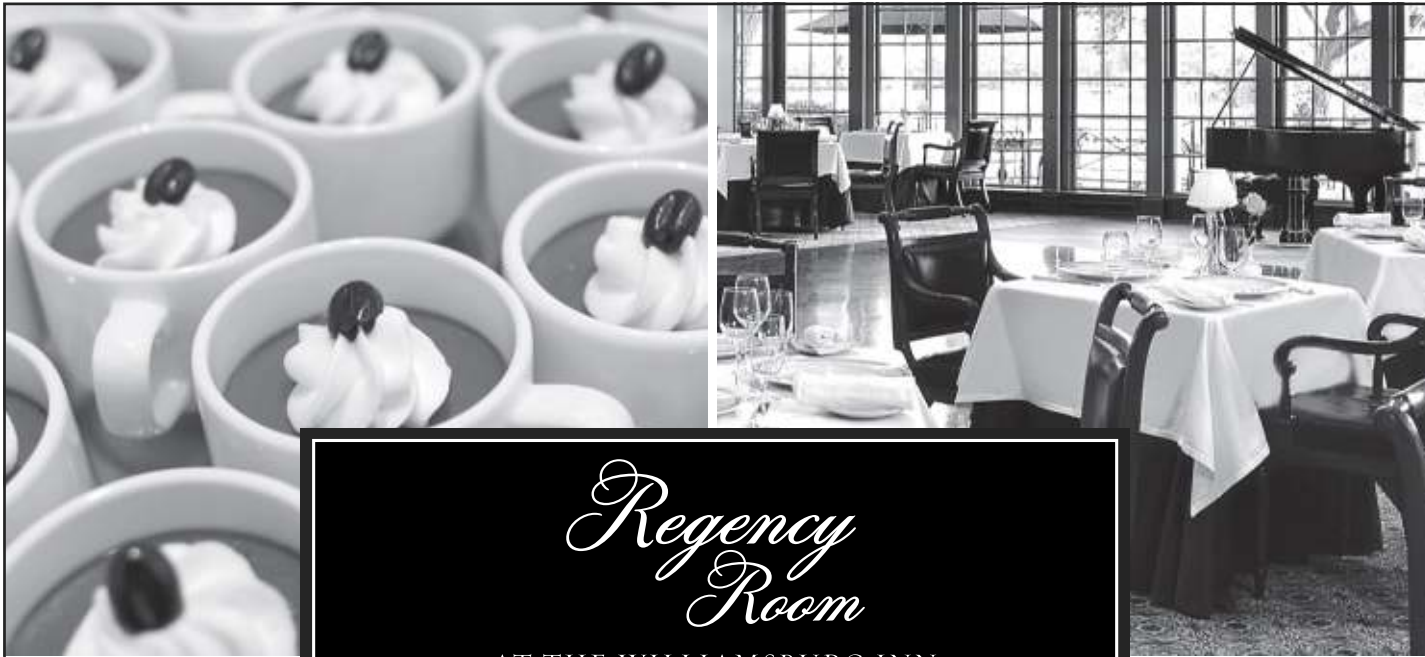
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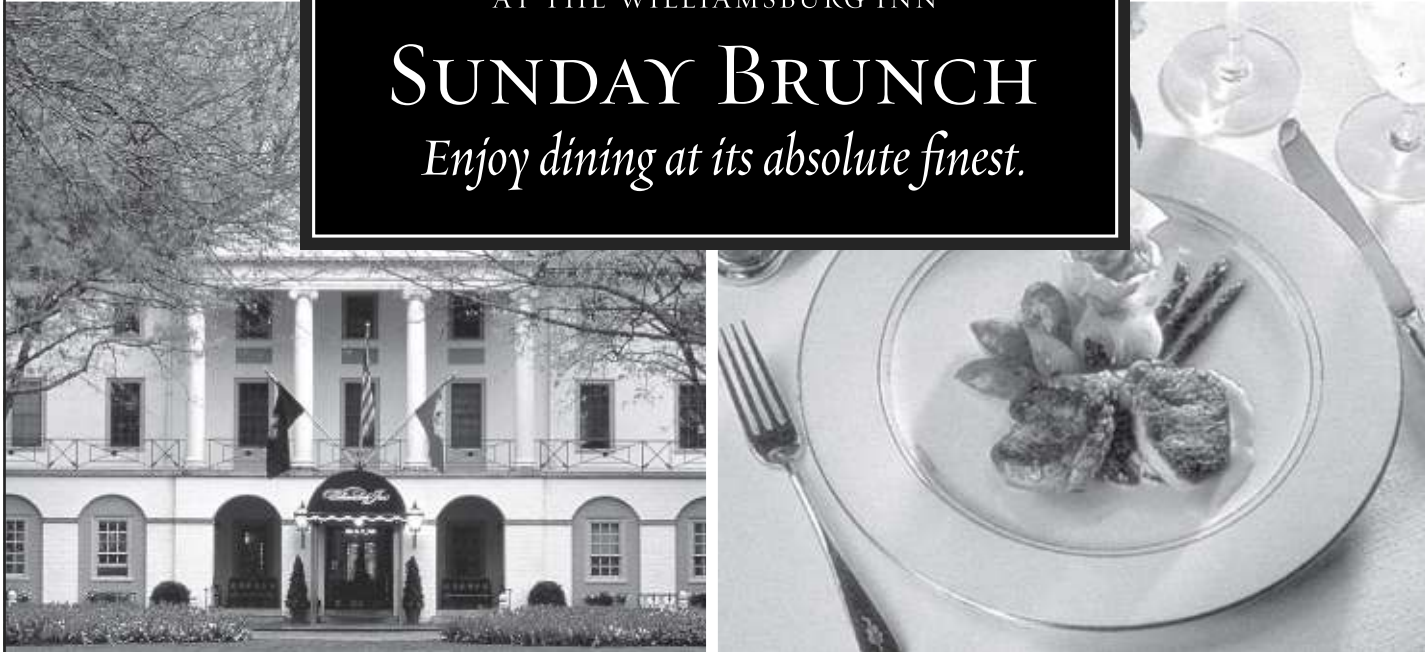


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